

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Please cancel claims 1-18 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Please amend claims 19 and 20 and add new claims 21-29 as follows:

1-18. Cancelled.

19. (Currently amended) An ophthalmic system comprising an ophthalmic apparatus and a surgery apparatus, wherein the ophthalmic apparatus includes:

optometry means for examining or measuring a patient's eye to obtain measurement data on the eye, the measurement data including refractive data on the eye necessary for refractive correction;

first photographing means for photographing the eye;

first identification code ~~generating~~ acquiring means for extracting a characteristic, which is inherently unique to the eye, ~~from~~ by processing an image of the eye photographed by the first photographing means and ~~generating~~ obtaining a first identification code ~~for the use of eye identification~~ based on the extracted characteristic; and

~~output~~ storage means for ~~outputting~~ storing the obtained measurement data or surgical data generated based on the obtained measurement data in association with the ~~generated~~ obtained first identification code, and the surgery apparatus includes:

surgery means for performing surgery for the refractive correction on the eye based on the surgical data;

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second photographing means for photographing the eye;

second identification code ~~generating~~ acquiring means for extracting the characteristic, ~~which is inherently unique to the eye, from~~ by processing an image of the eye photographed by the second photographing means and ~~generating~~ obtaining a second identification code ~~for the use of eye identification in the same form as the first identification code~~ based on the extracted characteristic;

~~input means for inputting the outputted measurement data in association with the first identification code;~~

comparison means for comparing the first identification code received from the ophthalmic apparatus and the obtained second identification code to ~~see if they judge~~ whether the first identification code and the second identification code match; and

informing means for informing a result of the comparison by the comparison means.

20. (Currently Amended) The ophthalmic system according to claim 19, wherein the surgery apparatus further includes ~~restricting~~ permission means for ~~restricting~~ permitting the surgery to be performed by surgery means ~~based on the result of the comparison by~~ when the comparison means judges that the first identification code and the second identification code match.

21. (New) The ophthalmic system according to claim 19, wherein the surgery apparatus further includes permission means for permitting the surgical data to be generated based on the obtained measurement data or the surgical data to be used when the comparison means judges that the first identification code and the second identification code match.

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22. (New) The ophthalmic system according to claim 19, wherein the first and second identification code acquiring means obtain the first and second identification codes based on an iris pattern of the eye respectively.

23. (New) An ophthalmic apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting measurement data on a patient's eye or surgical data generated based on the measurement data in association with a first identification code, the measurement data including refractive data on the eye necessary for refractive correction, the first identification code being obtained based on a characteristic which is inherently unique to the eye;

surgery means for performing surgery for the refractive correction on the eye based on the surgical data;

photographing means for photographing the eye;

identification code acquiring means for extracting the characteristic by processing an image of the eye photographed by the photographing means and obtaining a second identification code based on the extracted characteristic;

comparison means for comparing the inputted first identification code and the obtained second identification code to judge whether the first identification code and the second identification code match; and

informing means for informing a result of the comparison by the comparison means.

24. (New) The ophthalmic apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising:

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permission means for permitting the surgery to be performed by the surgery means when the comparison means judges that the first identification code and the second identification code match.

25. (New) The ophthalmic apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising:

permission means for permitting the surgical data to be generated based on the inputted measurement data or the surgical data to be used when the comparison means judges that the first identification code and the second identification code match.

26. (New) The ophthalmic apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the first and second identification codes are obtained based on an iris pattern of the eye respectively.

27. (New) An ophthalmic system comprising a data management apparatus, the system comprising:

assigning means for assigning patient identification data including at least one of a name and an ID number of a patient;

first identification code acquiring means for photographing an image of a patient's eye, extracting a characteristic, which is inherently unique to the eye, by processing the photographed image, and obtaining a first identification code based on the extracted characteristic;

first storage means for storing first measurement data on the eye in association with the assigned patient identification data and the obtained first identification code;

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second identification code acquiring means for photographing an image of the eye, extracting the characteristic by processing the photographed image, and obtaining a second identification code based on the extracted characteristic;

input means for inputting the patient identification data;

comparison means for reading out the first identification code from the first storage means based on the inputted patient identification data and comparing the read first identification code and the obtained second identification code to judge whether the first identification code and the second identification code match; and

informing means for informing a result of the comparison by the comparison means.

28. (New) The ophthalmic system according to claim 27, further comprising:

a measurement unit, including the second identification code acquiring means, for obtaining second measurement data; and

second storage means for storing the second measurement data in association with the patient identification data and the first identification code when the comparison means judges that the first identification code and the second identification code match.

29. (New) The ophthalmic system according to claim 27, wherein the first and second identification code acquiring means obtain the first and second identification codes based on an iris pattern of the eye respectively.

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